

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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DRAFTED BY ARA/AND:FJDEVINE:MG

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PINT, PFOR, OVIP (LAVIN, JAIME)

SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS AGAINST CMDT. JAIME LAVIN

REF: SANTIAGO 0634

JACK ANDERSON ABC-TV "GOOD MORNING AMERICA" OF MONDAY
JANUARY 24 TRANSCRIPT IS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: CHILEAN TORTURER INVITED TO U.S. LAST WEEK, JACK
ANDERSON AND I TALKED WITH A FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO
CHILE ABOUT OUR INVOLVEMENT OR POSSIBLE IN THEIR GOVERNMENT
STRUCTURE, AND THIS MORNING, JACK CONTINUES HIS LOOK AT
THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT. GOOD MORNING, JACK.

ANDERSON: WELL, I'VE BEEN REPORTING ON TORTURE IN CHILE
EVER SINCE THE MILITARY DICTATORSHIP SEIZED POWER THERE.
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I'VE SPOKEN TO SOME OF THE VICTIMS WHO'VE GOTTEN AWAY.
PRIESTS HAVE RISKED THEIR LIVES TO BRING ME ADDITIONAL
EVIDENCE. WELL, THE BAD PUBLICITY FINALLY FORCED THE
DICTATORSHIP LAST MONTH TO FREE 300 POLITICAL PRISONERS.
THIS WAS VIEWED AS AN ATTEMPT BY CHILE TO GET OFF TO A
GOOD START WITH THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION.

YET, AT THE SAME TIME, THE STATE DEPARTMENT INVITED AN ACCUSED CHILEAN TORTURER TO THE UNITED STATES AS A GUEST OF THE TAXPAYERS. HE'S COME HERE TO LECTURE. HE'S ALREADY SPOKEN AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY AND THE COMMON-WEALTH CLUB, A SAN FRANCISCO BUSINESSMEN'S GROUP. OUR INFAMOUS GUEST IS COMMANDER JAIME LAVINE FARINA. OFFICIALLY, HE'S DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE CHILEAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. BUT HIS FORMER VICTIMS REMEMBER HIM AS THE MAN OF THE HOUSE. HE USED TO BE AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF CHILE'S AIR FORCE WAR COLLEGE. AFTER THE MILITARY COUP, THE WAR COLLEGE WAS CONVERTED INTO A HOUSE OF TORTURE. THOUSANDS OF VICTIMS WERE THROWN INTO THE BASEMENT TORTURE CHAMBERS. MANY WERE NEVER SEEN AGAIN. THIS WAS THE HOUSE THAT LAVINE HELPED TO RUN. THERE IS SWORN, REPUTABLE TESTIMONY THAT HE SOMETIMES PARTICIPATED IN THE TORTURING HIMSELF. WELL, LAVINE NOW SAYS HE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT THE TORTURE, AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT, EXCEPT THAT TO CONFIRM THAT THE COMMANDER IS AN OFFICIAL GUEST.

WELL, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ISSUED A STINGING CONDEMNATION OF CHILEAN TORTURE. I'D LIKE TO READ FROM THE BRITISH NOTE. NO BRITISH GOVERNMENT, IT STATES, CAN ACCEPT SUCH AN UNCIVILIZED, BRUTAL TREATMENT OF PRISONERS. BUT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT INVITES THE TORTURERS TO THIS COUNTRY FOR A FREE TRIP. UNQUOTE VANCE

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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ISecure: 1
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